

U.S. to Pay Ransom For Cuba Prisoners?

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CUBAN HOPES

Cuban expatriate communities in the United States were abuzz last night with hopeful speculation that freedom was almost at hand for their compatriots who were captured in April's abortive Bay of Pigs invasion attempt.

They have been held prisoners since the invasion.

Cuban families were alerted for imminent release of the 1,113 prisoners.

Officials of the Cuban Families Committee for Liberation of Prisoners of War acknowledged only that "we are hopeful." But a representative of the committee said there might be "big news" today.

Committee headquarters, at 527 Madison Ave., bore an air of expectancy as attorney James B. Donovan, who has been conferring with Cuban officials in Havana, flew back to Miami.

Mr. Donovan, Democratic nominee for senator, would say nothing. But it was learned that members of the committee began trying quietly to obtain the services of three jet planes.

The 1,113 prisoners could be flown out in eight flights, about 150 men a flight.

There was another report in Miami that the return of Mr. Donovan from Havana might mean negotiations with Pres-

The hapless prisoners seized by Fidel Castro at the Bay of Pigs' fiasco will probably be ransomed as the best alternative besetting the Administration, Herald Tribune special writer Joseph Alsop predicts on page 16.



TOGETHERNESS — President Osvaldo Dorticos of Cuba greeting Algeria's Ahmed Ben Bella yesterday. Herald Tribune—UPI telephoto

ident Fidel Castro and his Communist regime had hit a snag.

Something of the sort was seen in a statement issued by the committee here, indicating that Castro and his henchmen are driving for a hard bargain in drugs and foods.

This line of reasoning held that Mr. Donovan's return to Miami meant that Castro wanted more drugs and food—or the assurance of early delivery—before signing on the dotted line.

The committee statement here said United States drug manufacturers had given assurance they would "supply needed and vital drugs at a minimum cost."

The committee indicated its efforts would be increased to obtain more money in this country, Europe and Latin America with which to purchase drugs. It said the "U. S. government has not yet been approached on furnishing surplus foods but the committee hopes that if this is necessary it will receive favorable consideration."

Mr. Donovan, who arranged the release of Francis Powers, the U-2 pilot, in exchange for Soviet spy Col. Rudolph I. Abel, went to Havana last month to discuss the ransom of the prisoners.



WARMAN
JAMES B. DONOVAN
Quick trip to Miami.

Castro released 66 early this year on condition that they try to raise \$62 million as "indemnity" for damage suffered in the invasion attempt.

The Cuban Families Committee statement said: "So generous was the response of the American, European and Latin American people to this humanitarian appeal, the committee is now hopeful of the early release of the prisoners."

It said fund-raising efforts had been "highly successful to date" and that the present course of negotiations calls for renewed and more aggressive efforts to secure additional contributions and donations" to bring about an early release.

The committee said: "The Cuban refugees, both in

the U. S. in Europe and Latin America, have been among the largest subscribers. Many American individuals and large business corporations in the U. S. have been generous contributors. Many Europeans also are on the list of those who have donated funds for the release of these prisoners. The number of wealthy Cuban refugees who have subscribed has been one of the more helpful aspects of the drive."

Mr. Donovan's negotiations with Castro were delayed 24 hours last week when the New York attorney suffered a severe attack of bursitis.

Mr. Donovan is the Democratic candidate opposing Republican Sen. Jacob K. Javits Nov. 6.

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